--1. (Amended) A vector for introducing a gene into a plant, which comprises:

a desired gene, wherein the desired gene is not a selectable marker gene, and

a plant hormone signal transduction gene as a selectable marker gene.--

2. The vector according to claim 1, which further contains a removable DNA element, wherein the selectable marker gene is positioned such that it behaves integrally with the removable DNA element, and wherein the desired gene is positioned such that it does not behave integrally with the removable DNA element.

3. The vector according to claim 2, wherein the selectable marker gene is present within the removable DNA element.

4. The vector according to claim 1, which further contains a plant hormone synthesis gene together with the plant hormone signal transduction gene as selectable marker genes.

5. The vector according to claim 1, wherein the plant hormone signal transduction gene is a cytokinin signal transduction gene.

6. The vector according to claim 5, wherein the cytokinin signal transduction gene is the *CKI1* gene derived from *Arabidopsis thaliana*.

7. The vector according to claim 4, wherein the plant hormone synthesis gene is a cytokinin synthesis gene.

8. The vector according to claim 7, wherein the cytokinin synthesis gene is the *ipt* (isopentenyl transferase) gene which is present on the T-DNA of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*.

9. The vector according to claim 2, wherein the removable DNA element is derived from a site-specific recombination system.

add n. >

Please add the following claims.

2 --10. (New) The vector of Claim 1, wherein the desired gene encodes an enzyme.

11. (New) A method of introducing a gene into a plant, comprising:

introducing the vector of Claim 1 into a plant.

A2 cond'd

12. (New) A method of expressing a gene in plants, comprising:

introducing the vector of Claim 1 into a plant, wherein the desired gene is expressed in the plant.

13. (New) A method of identifying plants which express a gene in a plant, comprising:

introducing the vector of Claim 1 into plants, and

identifying at least one plant which expresses the desired gene by selecting plants which express the plant hormone signal transduction gene.--

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

The amendment to Claim 1 is supported by the specification at pages 7-46, especially at page 18, last paragraph. Newly added Claim 10 is supported by the specification at page 18, last paragraph. Newly added Claims 10-13 are supported by the specification at pages 7-46, especially pages 21-26. No new matter is believed to have been added to this application by these amendments.

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are now pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to a vector for introducing a gene into a plant, which comprises:

a desired gene, wherein the desired gene is not a selectable marker gene, and

a plant hormone signal transduction gene as a selectable marker gene. See Claim 1.